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ADVISORY

TO: All Massachusetts Ambulance Services

FROM: Louise Goyette, Director

DATE: December 23, 2003

RE: Pediatric AED Capability

This is to bring to your attention that the new edition of the Statewide Treatment Protocols (Protocols), effective January 1, 2004, will for the first time include references to pediatric AED use where appropriate. This of course is dependent upon the ambulance service having an AED with U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) clearance for pediatric use that is age and weight appropriate. Pediatric AED use is also dependent upon EMTs being trained and demonstrating competency in, and using the machine in conformance with, manufacturer-specific guidelines and the Protocols.

Because we now have Protocols for their use, we are alerting you that we foresee changing the required ambulance equipment list in time, to require all Massachusetts ambulance services to have pediatric AED capability. We will do so with the input of the appropriate advisory committee(s) and all ambulance services during the regulatory 60-day comment period. In the meantime, we recommend any ambulance service purchasing AEDs to consider purchasing pediatric-capable AEDs in anticipation of these coming changes.

If you have any questions, contact Abdullah Rehayem at the Department of Public Health's Office of Emergency Medical Services, at (617) 753-7321.